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A SECOND
LETTER
TO

Dr. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

In which his wicked and opprobrious Invec-
tives are shewn; the Conspiracy against
Mr. MACKLIN clear'd up; an Anecdote
submitted to DAVID GARRICK Esq;

WITH

An impartial Character of Doctor SMOLLET; and
a Method laid down for adding to the BRITISH
Revenue 1,000,000 Sterling.

By ANDREW HENDERSON, &c.

AUTHOR of the former LETTER.

L O N D O N:

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LETTER II.

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Dr. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

HAVING in my former letter hinted at some of your scurrilities thrown out against the Scots nation, her seminaries of learning, and antiquity of the Earle language, I come now to a matter, which once employed your own pen, and has much distorted the learned.

In your Journey to the Æbuda, you speak of the place where Macbeth met the witches, a whim which Shakespear would have laughed at, since the several articles of enchantment mentioned in his Macbeth, are contained in the 7th book of Ovid's Metamorphoses, a work

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————— That will defy the rage
Of sword, of fire, and time's rolling age.

It seems that Shakespear was not only acquainted with Ovid, consequently more with the Latin language than you have allowed, but that he believed less in the doctrine of witches, and the second sight than you do? nay the noble inscription upon his tomb, and taken from himself, is but a parody of that glorious expression in *Metam. lib 1, fab. 6.*

*Quo mare, quotellus, correptaue regia cœli
Ardeat, et mundi moles operosa laboret :*

There was no translation of Ovid in Shakespear's time. The right understanding the story of Macbeth might have prevented a scene that lately engrossed the public attention.

Several criticks have remarked the impropriety of a man but twenty or thirty years old, acting the part of Macbeth, and arrayed rather like a Marquis in 1775 than a Scots chief, in the dress of 1057, Mr. Garrick himself with all his ability, was in a manner a contrast to that formidable warrior, being low in stature, and naturally diminutive :

utive : whereas Macbeth was strong, ~~temper~~ nervous, fierce, and gigantic : he had managed the war against the Danes for several years, destroyed their troops, attained the crown at a time when he must have been upwards of forty years, and reigned above seventeen more ; this mistake of Macbeth's age occasioned the conspiracy against Mr. Macklin, Nov. 24th 1773, exposed the inattention of some lawyers ; February 24th 1775, when Mr. Miles, Aldus, Leigh, James, and Clarke were convicted of the plot against him ; a plot whose atrociousness was fully explained May 12th by him, whose words and actions generally surpass those of other men : and when the fine compliment paid to master Macklin did no greater honour to his merit, than to Lord Mansfield's goodness of heart. Mr. Macklin never acted better " than to day, by moderating matters beyond what could be expected." Macbeth when killed was 60 years old.

Your nonsense about Macbeth and the second fight might conclude you rather to be a wizard, than a philosopher ; you too much show your weakness in every particular ? If you describe a country as Mull, one would think you had been drunk while on the island, in which you say there is no

water, nor road, whereas in your way from Tobermorrie to Ulva, you, yourself crossed the water and road of Aròs; your impudence in representing the isle as a solid square without promontories and waters, was condemned by several shipmasters, since to follow your direction might be attended with the loss of many lives. Mull has actually several bays, promontories, two Isthmus's several patent roads, and three large waters, abounding with variety of fishes. Poor man, you went to the country from a malignant motive; if the names of martyrs for the truth, drop from your pen, you revile their actions; your sneers are dealt promiscuously among individuals, seminaries of learning, nay and a whole nation! in short you show such baseness, as would have subjected a school-boy to as severe a flagellation, as ever Dr. Busby himself was known to use in the course of 46 years.

For a man to go to the Æbuda, and depreciate them because they are not capable of producing corn like Staffordshire; is equally absurd as to ridicule you for not being capable of dancing; the character of Cato so directly contrary to yours was

Naturamque sequi, patriaeque impendere
[vitam!
judge

judge of a country from that where with nature has endowed it, which leads me to point at something on which people of more ability may improve.

The Æbudæ in number 310 are among the brightest gems in the British crown, and some of these are very extensive (see letter p. 13) all productive of peas, oats, barley, flax, lint and the most substantial vegetables: nor is there an isle except Coll, the fifth part of whose ground is not arable; and yet by not duly attending to their natural advantages, they only contain 25 parishes, and about 48000 inhabitants, including women and children; tho' the soil be more generous than that upon the same parallels of latitude, they neither have towns nor villages; in this the Shetland and Orkney isles excell them, there being in the former two large towns, and in the latter, a royal borough & a stately cathedral; they have the best water, the finest harbours, and all of them surrounded by an inexhaustible fishery; the air is in most parts pure, the climates wholesome, the natives hospitable and brave, and so terrible in an attack, that it is almost impossible to resist the fury of their first charge; many families both in north and south Britain are descended from
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the M'Donalds, your own name (M'Ean) is from them.

The western seas are covered with fish, the cod, the ling, the tusk, the herring, with myriads of others, equally differing in species, as land animals; every creature whether of the land or sea, has its peculiar relish, form, taste, colour, instinct, and each feed upon some resembling themselves, and next to them in magnitude; those of the lesser size being to them, what venison, wild or domestic fowls are to quadrupeds that feed upon animals. The whale delights in the herring, a fish about a foot long, with a beautiful head $\frac{1}{4}$ of its length, six inches round at the breast, and tapering gradually to the tail which is long, fibrous and muscular, adorned throughout with a refulgence that is inexpressible; they engender between lat. 74 and 83 where after a night of 11 weeks, viz. from the 14 of November to January 27th, when the benumbed whale, half famished with hunger, quits the caverns of the deep, and begins a dreadful havock, sucking in perhaps an hoghead of water at a glut and five hundred herrings between his jaws; then the herrings finding their own Climate untenable, set out and being continually joined by new shoals, they

they by the time of their arrival at lat. 73, become innumerable: here they separate, one large flota extending along the shore of Nova Zembla, and Great Tartary; another that of Greenland, and Iceland, and a third run down the coast of Norway, whence they again divide, one part steering westward towards Bressa, Faro, and the Orkneys, or to the eastern coast of Scotland; when near Shetland, viz. lat. 61 they again subdivide, one branch flows toward the Orkneys and Pentland Firth; thro' which they are whirled with rapidity, and the other toward the western isles; they have their king, fight battles, engage, fly and retire: On the coast of Norway their food is not so generous as on that of Skye and of Lewis; besides on this last they are better secured from the ravages of the whale, than in higher latitudes.

What pity that a fishing company was not set up in these isles, and a borough erected in five of the largest, where those of every nation might be invited, whether Dutch, Danes, Russians or Swedes: a law ought certainly to be made that no vessel was to fish in these seas, whose master did not with his family settle upon the coast, notwithstanding

withstanding he might dispose of his cargo where he pleased.

Let the city of London give the first encouragement for bringing cargoes of fish to her markets, this would lower the price of butchers meat, and give bread to the labouring poor. If once the canal from the Clyde to the Forth was finished, a ship with herrings or cod, &c. might be brought from Isla to Blackwall, as soon as from Shetland to Hamburgh or Amsterdam, which last are enriched by that article of commerce. Above 3000 busses are employed yearly, to the great encouragement of ship builders, net knitters, coopers, and every manufacturer; many of these make three voyages in a season; not only supplying Holland, but Flanders and the Hanse towns; by this trade a million of people have bread, and about a million sterling is gained to their revenue. Our advantages are beyond theirs? every thing is to be brought by them from afar; whereas we have every thing within ourselves, and when the canal is finished, salt may be had from Sir Robert Henderson's pans, opposite the Queens Ferry, no way inferior to that of France or of Poland. I wish twenty shipmasters were appointed, each with the yearly salary of 50 l. to begin
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the fishery, the town would soon be stocked with inhabitants, and 'tis a doubt if any temporary grant to the Dutch could over set that great law of nature, that whatever potentate is possessed of a country, he certainly has an unalienable power to so much of the sea as runs along the coast, and is bounded in the ordinary way; at least he has a power to enact laws, regulating the police and fishing upon it; nay, when two continents, such as Sweden and Denmark line the same strait or sound, the same is equally divided between them.

'Tis surprizing you should say so little of the palace of Inverara, built after the model of that of the Doge at Genoa, nor yet of Lochow, a lake of 24 miles in length, and abounding with isles. Lochfine was overlooked by Sam. Johnson, though it communicates with the sea, and contains an inexhaustable fishery. You might have seen the place where were fought two battles at Falkirk, the first on the 22d of July 1296, between the victorious King Edward I. and the guardian of Scotland; and the second on the 18th of January 1746, between the king's troops and the Pretender to the crown. You might have observed the spot where was the decisive engagement

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ment 24th June 1314, between the renowned Robert Bruce, and the unfortunate Edward II. As also another in 1483, between King James III. and his son; the wall of Severus was passed over, as also the spot where stood the temple of Terminus, of whose stones the dykes and mills now are composed; here is an exuberant district, (the carse of Falkirk) whose wheat is little inferior to any in Europe; the manufactures, fine rivers, populous villages of the shire of Air where you was most politely entertained by Lord Loudon, with the state-liest monuments so descriptive of former times, gave place to the monument of Dr. Smollet, of whom it will not be improper to draw a short but impartial character.

Tobias Smollet, son to the (goodman) i. e. farmer of Unghern, in the shire of Dumbarton, was a man of very little learning, and always remarkable for perverseness, obstinacy, and revenge. Being an apprentice to a Surgeon at Glasgow, he eloped from his master, went abroad as third mate to a Surgeon in 1739, but soon took to another trade; for returning with a creole to Britain, he commenced Doctor, Man-
midwife,

midwife, Historian, and Romancer at Chealsea, where every Sunday, his assistants criticized the monthly sixpenny pamphlets, heard the decisions of their host, and then retired with horror and ridicule.

In 1753 he was found guilty of a cowardly assault upon an innocent man, Mr. Patrick Gordon, the real compiler of Roderic Random, and striking the man after he was down; he was afterwards found guilty of writing a libel against Admiral Knowles, fined and confined three months to the prison of the King's Bench for his pains; he was fluctuating in his friendship, and if an enemy his tender mercies were cruel; a sanguine temper appears in all he has done; his characters as of William I. are contrasts to themselves; that of King John the granter of magna charta, contains thirteen epithets, each blacker than another, while that of Mary Queen of Scots is a profusion of encomium. His account of the Duke of Cumberland's conduct in Scotland is shocking; "for fifty miles round all was "silence, horror and desolation"? whereas there was scarce a hut pulled down, a stone displaced, or a person killed who was not actually in arms, even on the day of the battle of Culloden, much less afterwards,

nor have I the least reason to alter the account contained in my history of the rebellion, a book which underwent five editions, and was first published by Mr. Griffiths Anno 1748, when he invited me to write the history of Scotland.

Smollets disposition was roving and unsettled ; nor had he judgment to investigate a matter with sagacity : however, he had some humour, but then it was of a kind ludicrously cruel, and if once prejudiced he would propagate with his utmost dexterity of insinuation, a report hurtful to the innocent, would first condemn anonymous productions, and then ascribe them positively to people who did not know what size they were of : However it is a kind of honour to his tomb, that it was taken notice of by Doctor Samuel Johnson, the man who could represent an island as an entire square, which in many places is actually indented with Bays.

I dare say your execrable treatise went to press without consulting Mr. Boswell, whose politeness and generosity of sentiment could not suffer him to harbour the remotest suspicion that he was carrying a viper in his bosom : a man freight with venom
and

and malignity; and however his natural goodness may confine him to a silent contempt, certain it is that you would have been reckoned a Scelestus by the Pagans of antient Rome who would not have entered the same boat, nor lodged under the same roof with a betrayer of the secrets of Ceres, or a violator of the ties of hospitality.

But passing your baseness, I heartly wish that the litigation about your assertions, may open the eyes of the state and make them give that due attention to the improvement of our fisheries, which nature has furnished us with: Sometimes no less than 400 vessels are employed at the Lewis at one time: the fish are like the sand upon the sea shore about the vessels, and 'tis observable that those caught next the shore are sweeter than those at a further distance, a proof that the fish love rest, and that nigh these shores, they find a food that agrees with them: By a proper attention to these, the revenue of Great Britain might annually gain above a million sterling. Cargoes from any part of the long isle, or from Skye might be carried to the Bay of Biscay, the coasts of Spain, Portugal, and the Mediterranean, much sooner than from Orkney, or Shetland, and far

far sooner than from Newfoundland, or any other part upon the Continent of America.

I have long considered the isles as a mine hitherto neglected by those who ought to have taken care thereof, during the unnatural wars between South and North Britain, the inhabitants were generally in an interest opposite to that of their sovereign? the Edwards during their wars were assisted so far by the Islanders, that they gave no assistance to their natural sovereigns, nay, sometimes made a diversion in favour of those with whom they were fighting hence number of other clans came in among them: that Coll whom you saw was the thirteenth laird of Coll, and the first of these was son to the third laird of Mac Lean. Since the union with England, their cheiftains were generally in the interest of France, the captain of Clanranald, almost the cheiftain of the Mac Donalds, and from whom the family of Antrim in Ireland is descended, was an officer in the French and Spanish service almost 27 years.

I have here to add that a desire of promoting the fisheries is more my aim, than any view towards raising my own fame, by making observations upon your productions
so

so full of impudence, so replete with faults, nonsense and ridicule : 'tis truth I seek, but neither praise nor victory : the pension you receive from the Government, may according to you palliate your execrable treatise taxation, no tyranny, so justly condemned, as contrary to the principles of magna charta the very spirit of the institution of parliaments, and so diametrically opposite to the very first principle, that "Taxation without representation, is slavery" in the sense of the word; as may be seen in the letter to Lord North, in favour of the Colonies: but indeed what excuse you can have for condemning things of which you was ignorant, surpasses my comprehension : the conclusion of my former letter proceeds from no vanity in me, nor should I think it a great thing to be thought preferable to you, as many worthy gentlemen both of Great Britain and Ireland are every way superior : but I have not so much to do with your defects in the literary way, as with your neglect and extravagance; for in a country abounding with natural and artificial curiosities, a prodigious variety of fish, of shells, and of land animals, in a vast diversity of ores, minerals, and fossils, adorned with the remains of the most stately fabricks, cloud capt towers, gorgeous palaces, high obelisks;

abolish and solemn temples, you have entertained yourself and the public with a series of false, hyperbolical, false and execrable tales, that if a common footman was to utter them he would be debarred the society of his fellow servants, and be consequently turned from his place.

Every person possessed of an estate ought narrowly to pry into whatever might be of public utility. The british parliament have for many years given the utmost countenance to such enquiries, many large heaths, boundless commons and extensive waste grounds have been improved since the beginning of the century; 'tis a question if nine tenths of the kingdom of England, be not taken in and improved since the conquest: with these improvements came population, and the number of inhabitants grew exceedingly: Trade followed of course, notwithstanding it frequently shifted her residence, yet commerce still continued to flourish, and 'tis hoped it always will, a becoming emulation is far from being blameable, every proprietor is to seek for his own advantage, and when this is found out the same will naturally be turned to the public utility not only of those in the neighbourhood but extend in a manner toward all.

To pry into the conveniences of what is within a man's cognizance, and is included within his own property, is a duty incumbent upon every person of fortune, it is what he owes to himself, to his family, to his King, to his country, and to his God? every generous breast has considered such investigation as acts of the noblest kind, the effect of an high and elevated Genius: Fellow-Citizens have honoured them with wreaths of encomium, and adorned them with the civic crowns of applause; Cicero the greatest orator that adorned the bar of antient Rome, and whose goodness of heart, took in the whole of mankind, preferred the founders of Citys to the most extensive and amazing conquerors: the construction of Forts, founding of Towns, erecting Harbours at places which had not so much as a name, adorning Cities, embellishing them with squares, laying out Streets and Lanes to the greatest advantage, in short every thing, the effect of mens hands, owed its rise first to mens ingenuity and goodness.

Here it is observable that tho' the royal Boroughs in Scotland in number sixty-three among which four cities, viz. Edinburgh, Aberdeen, St. Andrews, and Glasgow, are but few in comparison of those in England,

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yet many of them are more antient than those of the latter, many of them are greatly decayed: while others are vastly augmented: thus the city of Glasgow is twice larger than at the beginning of the century; lying in the midst of an excellent country, they have a vast consumption for goods imported from America as well as for the produce within themselves: her seminary of learning so famous over the world, draws Students, and consequently wealth from the several Provinces and Colonies of either Indies, and from the Carribee Isles: the mode of education in Scotland is certainly of the best kind, and in my humble opinion, 'tis better for a young man to study for half a year without a vacation, than to intermit thro' the intervention of terms; such eminent masters as have flourished either in England, or upon the continent, are well known there by their works and by their names; 'tis pity that any man should endeavour to interrupt the harmony that now subsists among the learned: Sir Isaac Newtons principia with that divine work upon the understanding are honoured and taught at Edinburgh, and the other Universities, while Mr. Maclaurins Fluxions, and Mr. Simpons conic sections are received at Cambridge and quoted by those that are connoisseurs,
many

many of the other towns in the west are enriched by the flourishing condition to which Glasgow by the industry of its inhabitants now is arrived ; in a word the west of Scotland might be singularly benefited, if their inhabitants had the countenance of government, and knew the rich and over growing mines of which they are possessed.

If we take a view of the northern district, we will find many of her towns more flourishing than in antient times, and only the inland places going to decay : Aberdeen is now twice more populous than formerly, her trade to the Baltic and to London is enlarged, and might be still more so, if the fisheries were properly encouraged : her seminary of learning is in high repute, she only prostituted her dignity, by conferring favours upon you.

There is not a place in the kingdom, which might not be greatly assisted, was this fishery to take place ; the cities of St. Andrews and Edinburgh are famous for learning, but might be still more enobled, provided the scheme which you should have proposed, had been steadily and properly pursued.

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Several people have gone to these isles, with as few connections as you had, and all unanimously speak well of their natives, as a brave, spirited and martial people, and possessed of advantages which nothing but the want of encouragement could keep from being of the most singular utility to England, nay might adorn and embellish her throne. The peevish thought that England and Scotland are in a manner distinct, and at variance, has but too much prevailed upon you : Blind to your own peace you have cultivated every kind of perverseness, and like a person void of sense and humanity, have acted things more deserving correction, than either a pickpocket or an highwayman.

The southern and eastern parts of Scotland, being every way so like those of England which lye so contiguous, that a person may go from the one to the other without boat or vessel, nay without bridge, waggon, horse, or any kind of vehicle, 'tis needless to trouble you or myself with much about them ; further than that they contain many mines of coal, nay lead mines of inestimable value, by which many thousands have bread and more still may have entertainment.

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The inexhaustible lead mines belonging to the duke of Queensbury and to the earl of Hopton are a treasure indeed, and were found out by an application and industry that deserve for ever to be admired.

A Gentleman of curiosity having one day observed the lead dust from the side of an eminence, concluded that a lead mine was there. Many people were set to search for it, but their labours were abortive for ten full years, when the vein was discovered in this accidental manner.

A man having a long pole in his hand, with which he was probing the mountain in quest of the vein, had despaired of finding it out, when a rat sprung suddenly out of an hole that had escaped him; he run against it with fury and resentment; the reptile leaped into the hole, the man darted at it, and missed it, however with the force of the blow, the pole struck the very body of the vein, and could not be got out till the earth covering it was removed, and then the whole was detected: 'tis a question with me, whether or not there be many mines of metals more precious than lead, in some of these subterraneous caverns of North Britain. People of your stamp and disposition

disposition would discourage every investigation, but men of real sense and goodness will highly approve, nay, they will rejoice in the event.

I have only to say that if those in the administration countenanced your malignant scheme, they were traitors to their country; or else they wanted you should expose your perverseness and obstinacy, which have now been made manifest and beyond the possibility of being doubted; as for myself, I assure you that I am sorry for your ignorance, but more concerned that such baseness should enter into the heart of a man, who could go to a kingdom, where he met with the kindest usage, and the most cordial hospitality, and on his return, entertain the public with a parcel of stupid tales about witches and the second sight; with execrable railleries against her reformers, detractions from her seminarys of learning, the grossest falshoods about her produce, the state of the country, and with little or nothing about that inexhaustible treasure her fisheries.

F I N I S